



STATE OF MICHIGAN
EXECUTIVE OFFICE
LANSING

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

BRIAN CALLEY
LT. GOVERNOR

February 24, 2012

Dear Parent,

In a letter earlier this week, I offered an update on what is happening with the Highland Park School District (HPS) and committed to continue communicating as the State of Michigan makes progress on helping bring necessary change to the district.

I am pleased to provide this latest update because of important legislation passed Thursday night and that I signed this morning.

The bottom line is that this emergency legislation makes sure your child can finish the school year despite the district's financial crisis. Our goal is to make sure your child and family have as little disruption as possible with as many choices as possible. We believe this legislation accomplishes that.

In the coming days, you can choose to:

1. Have your child continue at Highland Park Schools with a different school district or charter school operator overseeing and running the school. Details and agreements are still being worked out, but our hope is this gives your children the ability to continue with their current teachers and classrooms; or
2. Have your child transfer to another district or school that has available space. Special funding would go to that school and follow your child. We are currently compiling a list of schools with openings to make it as easy as possible for you to know and consider your options.

Also, the independent review team tasked with assessing HPS' financial situation met publicly this week, and its members again solidly concluded that the district is facing a financial emergency. I have agreed with their findings. Additionally, the HPS Board met last evening and passed a resolution opting NOT to appeal the findings or the appointment of an emergency manager. This is good news and I look forward to reappointing Jack Martin as emergency manager as soon as possible, hopefully by late next week.

Again, we know this is a tough and challenging situation, but we care deeply about the successful future of your child and every Highland Park student.

As governor, I will work tirelessly to ensure that your kids have access to a quality education. It is critical to their futures, and the future of Michigan. As a parent, I understand that hearing your child's school is in crisis is alarming. We will keep sending updates because it is important for you to have the facts. We want to help answer your questions and concerns. A public meeting will be held as soon as these two above options become clearer and we can implement them.

Please don't hesitate to contact my office at 517-335-7858 with questions or concerns. We'll do our best to answer them. You can also visit a website created specifically to share information and updates: michigan.gov/highlandparkschools.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rick Snyder".

Rick Snyder
Governor